

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 138

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to recognize CMT for its illustrious tenure and its decision to become the new home of the television series *Nashville*.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those venerable organizations that serve as exemplars in their industries, setting a standard of excellence and providing quality services that enrich the lives of those around the globe; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is CMT, a cable and satellite television network, which recently acquired the television show *Nashville*, sparing the series an untimely end and further cementing CMT's legacy as the top purveyor of all things country music; and

WHEREAS, making its debut on March 6, 1983, CMT, an initialism of Country Music Television, is the leading television and digital authority on country music and entertainment, reaching more than ninety-two million homes throughout the United States; CMT and its website, CMT.com, offer an unparalleled mix of music, news, live concerts, and series and is the top resource for country music on demand; and

WHEREAS, CMT is a most fitting home for the television hit *Nashville*, a drama set in Music City that takes viewers inside the industry that earned Nashville that moniker; and

WHEREAS, *Nashville* debuted October 10, 2012, on ABC, garnering 8.93 million viewers; created by Academy Award winner Callie Khouri, the critically acclaimed series is set against the backdrop of the city's music scene and follows the personal and professional challenges as country music royalty, including Rayna Jaymes, Juliette Barnes, and Deacon Claybourne, navigate their paths as artists and individuals; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2016, after four seasons on ABC, the network canceled the country music drama, citing a season of flagging ratings; however, the show's passionate,

devoted fan base rallied around the series using the hashtag "#BringBackNashville" and acquired over 174,000 signatures on a petition calling for *Nashville*'s reinstatement; and

WHEREAS, Lionsgate, the production company behind *Nashville*, had been confident that a new network would be found for the series, and this confidence proved warranted when CMT announced on June 10, 2016, that it would air the series and that the streaming service Hulu would make the episodes available online; and

WHEREAS, now in its fifth season, *Nashville* has shattered CMT ratings records, becoming the highest-rated original series in the channel's history; critics and fans alike claim that the series has never been better; and

WHEREAS, with the acquisition of *Nashville*, CMT has proven once again that it is an industry leader, putting fans first and doing its utmost to contribute to the legacy and the future of country music; and

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, CMT has been synonymous with country music entertainment, and it is fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend CMT on nearly thirty-four years of providing quality country music programming and content and for ensuring that the television series *Nashville* will continue to be broadcast to its legions of fans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.